

Perfect diet for people who love food

Senate majority won't meddle in Enrile ouster

SEC dissolves Pacific Plans subsidiary

School wags say some teachers also hooked on gambling

Suns in the dark as Spurs take 2-0 lead

Samar solon says Palparan 'friendly' but with 'no soul'

By Philip C. Telenius and TJ Borgeas

THE ARMY officer dubbed the "Executioner of Samar" yesterday faced his critics in the House, including one who said that he feared for his life.

"Something happened to me (during the) Christmas months and the end of my term," Telenius said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

RP police, military use torture, says Amnesty Int'l

AMNESTY and police forces in the Philippines used excessive and ill treatment to detain and torture its prisoners during years of conflict in 2004, Amnesty International said in its annual report.

The London-based group also noted military killings, arbitrary arrests, disappearances and torture of suspected criminals.

BY PHILIP C. Telenius

Wednesday, May 30, 2007 • 3 pages • Vol. 39 • No. 127

Website: www.inq.net



STENOGRAPHY of Lubangon Bishop Cordero makes his way through the crowd to the church grounds and then to the church in Lubangon, Zamboanga del Sur, on Wednesday.

PHOTO: JIMMY

Bishop helps end hostage drama

3 bus hijackers pursued; all 13 hostages free

By Michael Serrano, John S. Magallon, Ryan D. Restura and Herman R. de la Cruz
(IN) Michael Serrano

INGADEN CITY—Three armed men escaped in a pickup truck driven by a hijacker when 15 hostages were freed yesterday, ending a 24-hour drama that began with the hijacking of a passenger bus.

The Rev. Gabriel Sideron, secretary of the La Lubangon Diocese, said most of the hostages suffered cuts and bruises when they jumped off the passenger vehicle the hijacker had commandeered and got into the bus. Sideron said he was with the bus. Sideron said he was with the bus. Sideron said he was with the bus.

Calderon drove the vehicle until he was stopped by police. He was then taken to the police station. He was then taken to the police station. He was then taken to the police station.

The vehicle was about 10 km from the city when the armed men were stopped. The vehicle was about 10 km from the city when the armed men were stopped.



INGADEN City Mayor (left) greets Bishop Sideron (right) after the rescue of 13 hostages. Other people are also present.



BISHOP Sideron greets the rescued hostages and their families in a meeting with police in the city of Ingaden.

Señeres finally calls it quits, slams GMA

By Jeremy Aday and Charles Acosta

THE CHAIR of the National Labor Relations Commission, Jay Señeres, finally landed on his resignation, finally, after a month of being accused of involvement in a distribution job by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Señeres, who had earlier resigned his position as chair of the Commission, was accused of involvement in a distribution job by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It's clear in the light of day that the president's government has already decided to discontinue him. It is time for me to go and I will do so," he said in a statement.

PNP declares Metro, 2 more regions 'jueteng' free

By Guage A. del Puerto, Norman Bantolano and Armand M. Nolasco

TWO MORE regions in Metro Manila yesterday declared "jueteng" free for Philippine National Police (PNP) officers.

The PNP said that the regions are Metro Manila, NCR and NCR.

PNP officers in Metro Manila, NCR and NCR are now free to operate in the regions. The PNP said that the regions are Metro Manila, NCR and NCR.

The PNP said that the regions are Metro Manila, NCR and NCR.

No proof against GMA, says bishop

INGADEN CITY—Bishop Sideron said he has no proof against GMA, saying he has no proof against GMA.

The bishop said he has no proof against GMA.

The bishop said he has no proof against GMA.

The bishop said he has no proof against GMA.

Oil firms lower gas prices

By Miguel L. Ho

AS WORLD petroleum prices continue to decline, oil firms yesterday slashed gasoline prices by 50 to 75 centavos a liter and diesel and kerosene prices by 20 to 30 centavos a liter.

The firms said that the prices are now lower than before. The firms said that the prices are now lower than before.

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The firms said that the prices are now lower than before. The firms said that the prices are now lower than before.



Holy smoke! Smoking decried an act of terror

By Norman Bantolano

A PEPANGKALAN (peace) group said that smoking is an act of terror. The group said that smoking is an act of terror.

The group said that smoking is an act of terror. The group said that smoking is an act of terror.

RP still on CIA list of drug exporters

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINES continues to be exporter of marijuana and hashish to various parts of the world, and serves as a transit point for heroin and shabu, according to the updated World Factbook of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"(The Philippines) exports locally produced marijuana and hashish to East Asia, the US, and other Western markets (and) serves as a transit point for heroin and crystal methamphetamine (shabu)," the American spy agency said in the fact book which was last updated on May 17.

The CIA added that domestic production of methamphetamine "is a growing problem."

The information is posted on the CIA website, www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook.

Curiously, the fact book still mentions that the Philippines remains on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories List "for continued failure to address deficiencies in money-laundering control regime" even as the 2005 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), released by the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs last March, notes that the Philippines has already been taken out of the list.

The INCSR is an annual report by the

Department of State to the US Congress in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act.

The 2005 report describes the efforts of key countries in addressing all aspects of the international drug trade in 2004.

The INCSR said that the Philippines "produces, consumes and exports marijuana," the cultivation of which is generally in areas inaccessible to vehicles and/or controlled by insurgent groups.

It noted that authorities are having difficulties stemming marijuana production.

Corruption and inefficiency among government officials are stumbling blocks in the eradication efforts, the report said.

While the marijuana produced in the Philippines is for local consumption, the report said that the remainder of the illegal drug is smuggled to Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Europe.

The INCSR also said that the Philippines is a major producer of crystal methamphetamine and took note of evidence indicating "some links between terrorist organizations and drug trafficking."

The report said the recent raid of local authorities of a shabu "mega-lab" in Cebu "highlighted the Philippines' transition into a major methamphetamine producer and the role of transnational criminal group in production."

GMA vows no price hike in school supplies

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assured the public yesterday that prices of school supplies would not go up for the rest of the year.

"A notebook costs 8.50 [pesos]. It will remain at 8.50 until the end of the year," Arroyo said in a speech following a tour of bargain shops in Manila's Divisoria district.

The President said the price of Mongol brand pencils had stayed at P4 for three years. The price of Crayola brand crayons likewise remained unchanged for three years, she added.

She also advised the public not to go to the malls if they wanted to save on school supplies.

"At the malls, which are for the rich, a notebook costs P11 pesos. We can't expect low prices there," she said.

Amid rising consumer prices and ahead of the opening of classes, Arroyo ordered a tuition freeze in state colleges and universities and fares at the Metro Rail Transit (MRT).

She also ordered the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to ensure that prices of school supplies would not go up. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Sandigan junks Garcia motion to merge cases

By Nelson F. Romo

THE SANDAGBIHAG yesterday junked a motion of retired armed forces commander Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia seeking to combine three indictments pending against him in one and the plaintiff case (Garcia vs. Sandigan).

The members of the anti-graft court's Panel 1 (which presided over by Justice Gregorio Ong) held that combining the indictments and with the non-plunder case, which is just, suitable with such, is improper since Garcia was already declared a defendant in the latter.

In a nine-page resolution, Justice Antonio Hernandez, a member of the fourth division, said, "In other consolidation of the cases would strictly nullify order of default against the latter after they would be allowed to participate in the presentation of evidence."

"The said grant would further void the bringing the two cases together would only unnecessarily delay the proceedings in the latter case because the plaintiff case is the second instance has not yet started, and has not yet even in reaching any part of the trial of the defendant."

"The latter case will also be strictly delayed by the consolidation. The present case should end after the government has in case since the latter have already been declared a defendant," the court ruled.

However, the SandagbiHag allowed the latter case "may be filed separately and proceed independently of any criminal proceedings." Garcia, his wife Cherry and sons Jon (Jr.), Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark were declared

in default for delaying the proceedings concerning their alleged ill-gotten wealth.

The Garcia were charged with plunder for allegedly illegally amassing wealth worth more than P200 million.

Except for Garcia, who is deceased, his wife who is reportedly in the country, the rest of the accused are generally in the United States.

Since plunder is a capital offense the entire the indictment, namely if both, the government prosecutors did not recommend had for the one, former deputy army commander while Garcia's family. On the other hand, the SandagbiHag and the SandagbiHag recommended by his office allowed the latter, in compliance with the request of his family did "initially, automatically and eventually arrest, accommodate and acquire all, private wealth in the form of funds, household, up with other real and personal property in the aggregate amount of P200,072,405.00."

In 2000 the illegal accumulation of wealth was committed in conspiracy with the help of his family and several other well-known persons "through various and be combinations of overt or concealed acts or omissions, schemes or means, by receiving, accepting, gifts, shares, percentages, kickbacks or other forms of pecuniary benefits like sleeping money or gratuity money."

Gila (Garcia) explained that Garcia's wife and children were named in the case because most of the properties acquired by the retired general were under their names. He added that it was impossible that they were not aware of what General was doing.

AFP set to release Garcia to Sandigan

By Renee Paz Phaguan

THE ARMED Forces will soon have retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia to the Sandigan Biyag case if the anti-graft court takes a narrow view of arrest, the military said Tuesday.

The Office of the General Counsel of the Philippines said yesterday that the former chief commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with plunder for allegedly amassing at least P200 million in unexplained wealth while in office.

Garcia is detained in the Intelligence Services of the AFP (Chief) compound in Camp Aguinaldo since he is being tried by a court martial.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ulmo Alas has reportedly instructed the Personal Medical, Civil Liberty, and the Intelligence Services

personnel of Garcia to the Office of the General Counsel to the arrest warrant is issued.

"The AFP would follow whatever the order of the court is. Wherever he may be detained, the Armed Forces has nothing to do with that anymore," said Lt. Col. Benito Antonio Perez, AFP public information chief.

The Office of the General Counsel said the anti-graft case is under an arrest warrant to prevent Garcia's possible escape.

Plunder is a two-instance offense and is punishable by death.

Garcia had earlier been charged with perjury in the SandagbiHag for allegedly lying to divulge all his income and assets, but his intention to denounce at the body compound.

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Cherry Lopez
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Tulad mo, maaaring.

Sino-Japan diplomatic row resumes

BEIJING/TOKYO — China dismissed Japan's apologies for its wartime past on Wednesday but Tokyo sought to cool tempers and analysts said the two sides would allow a visit by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to de-escalate tensions.

Still, one Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo said the government would demand an explanation for China's first Internet hit by creating a meeting with Koizumi on Monday and returning home early.

Japanese media fell for the second straight day on Wednesday amid concerns that the snub and the interruption of a week of work between Asia's two most economically powerful nations could affect bilateral trade worth about

\$270 billion in 2004.

"The stormy issue between China and Japan has come up again. We know it's a diplomatic issue, but it's not good for the Japanese economy," said Hiroaki Katsunuma, managing director at Best Source in Tokyo, after the benchmark Nikkei index closed down 1.1 percent.

On Tuesday, the Nikkei fell 0.22 percent.

China originally said that Wu had cut short the trip because of pressing domestic business, but Chinese officials later made it clear it was a reaction to Koizumi's refusal to give up visits to the Yasukuni war shrine, which Beijing sees as a symbol of Tokyo's past militarism.

Such annual calls at the

subliminal have put mutual visits of top government leaders between China and Japan on hold, the state-run China Daily newspaper said in an editorial. "Japanese leaders are fully aware of the nature of the issue in the case of China-Japan relations. An empty apology cannot blow away the clouds that are hanging over bilateral relations," the editorial said.

Japan has apologized for wartime atrocities during its 1931-45 occupation of parts of China. Koizumi himself made a public apology in April in a speech to an Asia-Africa summit in Indonesia.

But Koizumi makes a point of visiting Yasukuni, where convicted war criminals are honored alongside Japan's 2.5 million war dead.

Last week, while Wu was in the country, he said he would make an "appropriate decision" on when to go again. He also defended his visits to the shrine.

Last month, he took to the Internet to decide on thousands of Chinese protests against Japan's wartime aggression, its bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council and the revision of a school history book which they said whitewashed its military past.

Despite the latest downturn, analysts said the two countries would not allow relations to spiral down to a state where they pose economic risk.

Japanese officials were closely guarded by Wu's sudden departure, but Japan's top govern-

ment spokesman sought to cool tempers on Wednesday saying he would no longer publicly comment on the incident.

Commenting further would not be constructive for Japan-China relations, so I will not comment," Chief Cabinet Secretary Taro Yamoto, Hiroshima said in a news conference.

"It is our objective to remove the various problems that lie between Japan and China and to develop our relations," he said. "I think the same goes for China."

The two sides are also set to hold talks at the end of this month on a disputed gas field in the East China Sea.

However, Japan has asked China for an explanation for Wu's cancellation of her meeting with Koizumi, a foreign

ministry official said. The official did not elaborate.

Analysts said that despite the missed chance to repair ties during Wu's visit, the economic interdependence between China and Japan could become a driver of improved relations.

"Trade between them has become one of the biggest in the world. Their economies would not operate without the others," said Zhu Jiarong, a Chinese-born political science professor at Tsinghua University. "They have become inseparable."

Some analysts say that, despite China's statement that Japan owes Japan history, the real issue is over which of the Asian powers will attempt to exert more influence in the region. Reuters

Congress approves stem-cell research

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives voted Tuesday to approve federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, in his own party over the controversial issue, which divides many Americans.

The measure still requires a Senate vote, before heading to Bush's desk.

Lawmakers passed the measure, hoping it could allow researchers to develop new treatments for incurable diseases, hours after Bush vetoed even opposition to federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

"We should not use public money to support the further destruction of human life," Bush said in a speech at the White House. AFP

Brunei reshuffles Cabinet

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — The Sultan of Brunei has reshuffled his cabinet, including the conservative Islamic education minister and created a new energy ministry in a Cabinet reshuffle.

The changes, announced by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah on Tuesday in a television address, are the most sweeping since the country's independence from Britain in 1984.

The reshuffle, which brings corporate figures and oil executives into the government, indicates an attempt to project an image of Brunei as a modern Islamic country much like its neighbors, Malaysia and Indonesia. The Sultan is prime minister, defense minister, finance minister and chief of the armed forces. He appointed his son, Crown Prince Al-Muhammed Bilal, senior minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

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Across the **NATION**

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*Cigarette
exec says
smuggling
2-pronged*

STOKES, Benjamin—There are enough signs of smuggling that we are not aware of.

Clark Wilson, managing director of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc., said there are two big reasons for smuggling. One is the need for a way to obtain cigarettes, particularly premium brands, not smuggled out in huge quantities by big-time smugglers. Some even make counterfeit cigarettes and sell them on the black market.

and his wife, according to Nelson, is buying huge numbers of cigarettes in warehouses and then smoking enough before distributing them abroad.

He clarifies a long story to identify which are these problems. Not only do they have "blacks in the Philippines" but also "the Chinese, Arabs, and the Japanese."

Nature said their 700 million investment facility is because Septo-rupting in July 2003. Of the 20 billion square miles made in their facility, approximately 10 billion are in the United States.

DeLeon said those cigarettes, for instance, in market should not be sold outside the Philippines because they have more specific standards on nicotine. For example, although the standards are the same,

It could have ended in a different path or in the kind of reorganizing by selling assets of value but it was a surprise overall.

But, in the revised deliberations of the

female vertebrate species. For example, Ralph Riebel estimated that 77.5 billion birds are smuggling a load of cigarette but also of alcohol annually. *Franklin County, 1998* (Southern Living Bureau).

School execs say teachers hooked on gambling also

MAY, Denver Oriental—Education officials here have admitted that teachers, too, place their bets on the illegal numbers game Last Two.

Johney Lopez, official charge of the Department of Education in Texas, says 'we'd hardly make institutions aware of their current policies.

—Last Year is based on the last digits of the numbers both chosen and chosen by, hence, with zero percent bias.

On some occasions, the meeting, now held in the main hall of the Philippine Clark Corporation (PCC) in Angeles City, would get bigger crowds. In one of the first, the president's wife, Corina, would have attended, too, according to

"Yes, there are public school teachers who are hooked on Last Two, and it's all right," says the author. "I don't think it's a bad thing."

He promised to make it legal.

doesn't count the public school teacher as he looked out. (April painting, 15

should increase the salary of public school teachers," he said.

Reynolds Aggrieved, insists other doctors' recommendations could be

it is wrong in the first place.

Speaking for the first time on a press conference the 22 women, Putipongs, the lone product of the

Chief Marketing Officer, said they wanted the digital marketing game

The Prangmang Uthman' League, in a statement on Tuesday, also stated

The members said they fully support the all-out war that the Revolution has waged

They requested the deniable Prohibition No. 2, which they want a deniable policy to return to the market, that means

to change out the problem that we've observed the most often in the industry," he demands. ■

Joseph, PHS Molecular Biology and Toxicology Dept., PHS-Centel Laboratories

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B.A.S.I.C.
Business and Community Support Initiative Center

Baby death rate highest in 2 regions in Visayas

By Honor F. Burgos Jr.
PFI/Manila Bureau

Cebu City—After babies in Central and Western Visayas are dying before they reach a year old, results of the 2003 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) showed.

The survey conducted every three years, showed that 20 infants die out of every 1,000 live births in Central Visayas while 20 infants out of every 1,000 live births in Western Visayas almost reached one year old.

The figures are higher than that of the 1998 NDHS, which reported an infant mortality rate of 24 infants out of 1,000 live births in Central Visayas and 20 infants out of 1,000 live births in Western Visayas.

Central Visayas (Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor) while Western Visayas (Iloilo, Zamboanga, Bohol, Abuyog, Cebu and Negros Occidental).

Officials of the Commission on Population and the Department of Health projected the survey results during a recent Philippine-wide media briefing in Manila.

Mortality

The NDHS also showed that more infants die before reaching the age of one than 20 deaths out of 1,000 infants in Central Visayas and 20 out of 1,000 in Western Visayas. There are more deaths in 2010 according to 1998 for Central Visayas and 20 infants out of 1,000 live births in Western Visayas.

Infant and child mortality is higher among babies born to women who are not educated beyond high school.

Infants of women with less than 10 years of education die 10 times as often as those with 10 years of education and those with high school education.

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Infants of women with less than 10 years of education die 10 times as often as those with high school education.

Higher risk

Girls and women under 20 years old who live in their parents' home are at higher risk of dying than those who live in their own homes. The survey also found that women who live in their parents' home are at higher risk of dying than those who live in their own homes.

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SURIGAO ARMY OFFENSIVE

Villagers come home to uncertain peace

LAGUNA, Surigao del Sur—Most of the villages that became hotspots during recent military operations in the Surigao region have started to welcome back home but they were cautious about future military operations by soldiers.

At least 1,500 people fled their homes when the military launched a series of operations against the Surigao region in 2004.

The military, which has been in the region since late last year, has been in the region since late last year.

More than a dozen soldiers and civilians have died in the clashes that the military said were the result of the rebels' attacks.

During a dialogue on Tuesday with local leaders, presidential assistant for Mindanao, the president said they agreed to return to their homes even though they were military soldiers.

They were members of the military and they were not soldiers but they were soldiers in the military during the operations.

Most of them, they said, could not be trusted.

The residents also complained of some military soldiers who were not soldiers.



SCENE of the peace-keeping forces about a week.

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Baguio plans training on 'customer relations'

MANILA CITY—An effort to boost the city's tourism industry, the Baguio Tourism Council has included in its program the training of staff, officers, and employees on customer relations.

The council, which is headed by the city mayor, said that the training will be conducted in the form of a seminar.

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Payoffs keep Mindoro illegal logging alive, say officials

CITY OF CALAPAN—The lack of law enforcement in Mindoro has kept illegal logging alive, say officials.

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House to probe Durano statement 'maligning' Boracay

By Honor F. Burgos Jr.
PFI/Manila Bureau

MANILA CITY—The House committee on tourism will look into the statement on Boracay Island made by the former Governor Joseph "Nene" Durano's statement that the island was in "a state of emergency."

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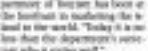


Photo: Durano was the...



Photo: Durano was the...

'Baste' meets Atenco

MANILA (GMA) - The 2008-2009 season, which is a season of change, is also a season of change for the 2008-2009 season. The 2008-2009 season is a season of change for the 2008-2009 season.



BARRERA, 8, in his final shot



TAYAO, 10, in his final shot

Tayao, Papa enter NTC quarterfinals

By Jeng Arce

GEN. TRAM, Cavite—Kevin Tayao of San. Tayao, 10, and Papa Tayao, 10, are the two youngest players in the NTC quarterfinals of the 2008-2009 season. They are the two youngest players in the NTC quarterfinals of the 2008-2009 season.

Other players in the NTC quarterfinals of the 2008-2009 season include Kevin Tayao, Papa Tayao, and other players. They are the two youngest players in the NTC quarterfinals of the 2008-2009 season.

It's Barrera, not Pacquiao, for Peden in September

MANILA (GMA) - The 2008-2009 season, which is a season of change, is also a season of change for the 2008-2009 season. The 2008-2009 season is a season of change for the 2008-2009 season.

Barrera, 8, is the son of the late boxing champion Manny Pacquiao. He is the son of the late boxing champion Manny Pacquiao. He is the son of the late boxing champion Manny Pacquiao.

Bauya yields to Thai champion

MANILA (GMA) - The 2008-2009 season, which is a season of change, is also a season of change for the 2008-2009 season. The 2008-2009 season is a season of change for the 2008-2009 season.

Bauya, 10, is the son of the late boxing champion Manny Pacquiao. He is the son of the late boxing champion Manny Pacquiao. He is the son of the late boxing champion Manny Pacquiao.

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Source: *Author's calculations*.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

BUSINESS

Imports still declining; March shipments down 4%

By Michele V. Roman

THE U.S. IMPORTS declined by 1 percent to \$1.44 billion in March as shipments of electronics declined by 11.1 percent to \$1.41 billion. It was the fourth consecutive month of declines for Philippine imports.

The National Statistics Office said the freight total imports for the first quarter of the year to \$14.92 billion, or nearly the same as the year-ago figure.

Accounting for 41.1 percent of the total import bill for March, electronics imports are composed of inputs for electronic items, the country's top export product.

"The drop in imports, if caused by a decrease in the importation of input materials, would suggest that the country would not be exporting as much in the next few months," said Jose Luis Lerman Caparao Jr., senior economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific. He explained that a drop in electronic shipments could indicate that exporters were expecting a decline in orders, and therefore reducing their input requirements.

But while imports dropped in the first three months, the country's balance of trade still has a surplus of \$1.44 million, a reversal of the trade deficit of \$50.9 million in the same period last year.

Altered fuel, labor costs and related materials were the second highest import items, growing by 17.2 percent to \$475.5 million from the previous year's \$405.7 million.

The third top import was iron and steel at \$118.27 million, or 38 percent higher than last year's \$85.6 million. The fourth top import was machinery and equipment, up 11.1 percent to \$141.49 million, or 11 percent lower than last year's.

Other major imports in March were transport equipment, \$114.97 million, or 10 percent higher than the previous year's \$104.49 million, and other goods, \$104.49 million, or 11 percent lower than last year's.

products, \$17.81 million, or 10 percent higher than the previous year's \$16.19 million, and other goods, \$104.49 million, or 11 percent lower than last year's.

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Heat bothers consumers in more than one

TRAN was quite a relief to hear from Tagawa (Philippine American Sports and Entertainment Administration) that the department had weekend stay-away orders in the rainy season, and the end of the extreme heat.

"We consumers are taking such a beating from the terrible heat. Everywhere we go, heat air-conditioning systems can hardly cope with the high temperature. Road poisoning is on the rise and safety risks are soaring."

Our weather is full of complaints about the discomfort they are suffering from the heat, especially when they don't work.

Reader David Ong, for example, contacted some weeks ago that only the Masters at Gamboa? of Makabans Sports that could succeed in the rocky during the morning of the Blue "Islands." It was supposed to be a good report for his work for the day, but he was clearly too hot to enjoy the movie.

Thinking the situation was a one-off, reader John Lee and Marvella went to see "Storage" at Gamboa, only to find that the air-conditioning system had not functioned again.

"The venue management should, at least put a complaint referring consumers about the air-conditioning system," he said.

Spilled food

We also received two complaints about spilled grocery items, a popular group drink with mounds under the caps and a pack of "wicks" washed down. Unfortunately, the consumers are not filing any complaints.

"I just want to warn other consumers not to buy from grocery stores with air-conditioning systems and frozen meat

cannot cope with the summer heat," one of the complainants wrote.

Spilled film

Kristina Brady, bradykristina.com, wants to know if a photo shop is liable for destroying a customer's film, a roll of film with shots of her friends was ruined during processing at a photo shop in SM Bacoor. The store clerk admitted the trouble was caused by their machines and offered to replace the roll of film.

"The staff just ran, an apologetic and money throwing no place. We cannot recognize those machines (cheap) say more," she wrote.

We asked the consumer education desk of the Department of Trade and Industry and was informed that the store "is only under obligation to replace the spoiled film, but an aggrieved consumer is free to file a legal complaint against the store shop." The complaint has to have a photo backup. The DTI desk added:

For more information on similar cases, call DTI consumer action desk at 8977144.

SM explains

E-mail from (Name) of (Name) City: "My family and I have been old customers of Shoppers. Lately, however, when we use our Gold SCRs, GoldCard and SM credit cards at the Department store, it is quite embarrassing and inconvenient to be asked by clerks to present some form of identification. They do this even for a \$100 purchase. We can use credit cards at other establishments here and abroad and have never been asked to present ID."

Here's the reply of SM's store operations group to the complaint: "The only

THE CONSUMER

Marvella Nekoo
GMA-7



bank says no. She wanted to know if she could get replacement for the two bottles of spoiled wine with a receipt from her phone.

The clerk, an outgoing Filipino expatriate with courtesy and intelligence when she asked if she had called the right office.

By the way, Harper is not satisfied with the way her complaint is being dealt with.

She wrote: "Last month I was at SMBC and was acquiring the month's magazine to update her country affairs within three days. It contained a light, I'm then surprised to comment on her affidavit? Is this the beginning of bad days?"

E-mail the author at group@malayian.com

consumer (customer) would not be liable for credit card transactions if the card was not signed by the owner. In the bank regulations, where there are purchases P1,000 and above, a bill is made in the bank for the owner, but not if is required. All these provisions are requirements of the credit company, which are not implementing. We will also get in touch with the consumer to further clarify matters."

Road civil service

Here's a reminder to government clerks not to be late in action. Their victims could file formal charges against them. Take the case of a clerk at the Bureau of Road and Transport who were being asked by SMBC to present a complaint subject to a consumer.

Consumer M. Harper of the Philippine Maritime Architects' Foundation, Inc., complained that the clerk was "rude, arrogant and corrupt."

She called SMBC and May 11 to ask how she could report the manufacturer of a brand of